

SENATE BILL NO. 211

BY SENATOR CLAITOR

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 36:801(introductory paragraph), and to enact R.S. 36:109(U) and
3 Chapter 40 of Title 51 of the Louisiana Revised Statues of 1950, to be comprised of
4 R.S. 51:2401, relative to economic development; to create the Louisiana Innovation
5 Council within the Department of Economic Development; to provide for the
6 membership; to provide for the duties and responsibilities; to provide for reporting;
7 and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 36:801(introductory paragraph) is hereby amended and reenacted and
10 R.S. 36:109(U) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 §109. Transfer of boards, commissions, departments, and agencies to Department of
12 Economic Development

13 * * *

14 **U. The Louisiana Innovation Council (R.S. 51:2401) is placed within the**
15 **Department of Economic Development and shall exercise and perform its**
16 **powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities in the manner provided for**
17 **agencies transferred in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 36:801.**

18 * * *

19 §801. Transfer; retention of functions

20 The agencies transferred by the provisions of R.S. 36:4.1(B), R.S. 36:53(A),
21 **R.S. 36:109(U)**, R.S. 36:409(B), R.S. 36:459(D), R.S. 36:478(K), R.S. 36:509(K),
22 R.S. 36:610(K), and R.S. 36:651(C) shall continue to be composed and selected as
23 provided by law; each agency shall continue to exercise all powers, duties, functions,

and responsibilities provided or authorized for each by the constitution or laws which are in the nature of policymaking, rulemaking, licensing, regulation, enforcement, or adjudication and also shall continue to exercise all advisory powers, duties, and functions provided by law; each agency shall continue to administer and implement all programs provided or authorized for each by law which relate to rulemaking, licensing, regulation, enforcement, and adjudication; each agency shall continue to be governed by the Administrative Procedure Act, in its entirety, including provisions relative to adjudication proceedings, unless otherwise specifically provided by law; the executive head of each such agency shall employ, appoint, remove, assign, and promote such personnel as is necessary for the efficient administration of such powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities and for the administration and implementation of such programs, in accordance with applicable civil service laws, rules, and regulations, and with policies and rules of the department to which the agency is transferred, and subject to budgetary control and applicable laws; except as specifically provided in Paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) below. The agencies transferred as provided in this Section shall exercise the powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities and shall administer and implement the programs authorized in this Section independently of the secretary, the undersecretary, and any assistant secretary, except that:

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Section 2. Chapter 40 of Title 51 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 51:2401, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

CHAPTER 40. LOUISIANA INNOVATION COUNCIL

§2401. Louisiana Innovation Council

A. There is hereby established the Louisiana Innovation Council within the Department of Economic Development which shall exercise and perform its powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities in the manner provided for agencies transferred in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 36:801.

B. The council shall be composed of the following members:

(1) The governor or the governor's designee.

1 (2) The secretary of economic development.

2 (3) The commissioner of higher education.

3 (4) The executive director of the Louisiana Workforce Commission.

4 (5) The president of the Louisiana Community and Technical College
5 System.

6 (6) The state superintendent of education.

7 (7) The chair of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer
8 Protection and International Affairs, or his designee.

9 (8) The chair of the House of Representatives Committee on Commerce,
10 or his designee.

11 (9) Two statewide representatives, appointed by the president of the
12 Senate, of which one shall be an entrepreneur.

13 (10) Two statewide representatives, appointed by the speaker of the
14 House of Representatives, of which one shall be an entrepreneur.

15 (11) Eight entrepreneurs in the state, appointed by the governor.

16 (12) Four statewide representatives, appointed by the governor.

17 (13) The chief executive officer of the Council for A Better Louisiana, or
18 his designee.

19 (14) The chair of Blueprint Louisiana, or his designee.

20 (15) The chair of the Committee of 100 for Economic Development, or
21 his designee.

22 (16) The president of the Southern University System, or his designee.

23 (17) The president of the University of Louisiana System, or his designee.

24 (18) The president of the Louisiana State University System, or his
25 designee.

26 (19) One representative appointed by the Louisiana Association of
27 Independent Colleges and Universities.

28 C. The council shall have as its mission to shape an innovation-based
29 vision for Louisiana and coordinate activities in the statewide innovation
30 agenda.

1 D. The duties of the council shall include, but are not limited to, the
2 following:

3 (1) Recognize and communicate economic diversification and innovation
4 efforts as key state economic development priorities.

5 (2) Shape the Louisiana innovation agenda, including strategic
6 objectives, activities and investment opportunities related to targeted research
7 investments, commercialization efforts, entrepreneurship services, risk capital
8 development, and the development of new, high-growth industry segments.

9 (3) Assist in the development of a workforce pipeline that supports
10 innovation, including efforts to cultivate talent in Louisiana's pre-kindergarten
11 through twelfth grade education systems, community and technical colleges,
12 universities, and other relevant workforce development programs.

13 (4) Assist in the coordination of related policies, programs, and
14 investments, including those already in place, including but not limited to angel
15 investor tax credits and state venture capital investments.

16 (5) Develop prioritized recommendations on an annual basis to address
17 part or all of the Louisiana innovation agenda.

18 (6) Evaluate in the first year topics such as technology transfer, high-
19 growth industry segments and a Georgia Research Alliance model for
20 Louisiana, including an organizational model, operational model, and a
21 proposed start-up budget for a Louisiana Research Alliance based on best
22 practices of other states.

23 E.(1) The council shall adopt such rules and procedures as it shall find
24 necessary for the conduct of the activities and meetings of the council.

25 (2) No action shall be taken by the council except by a favorable vote of
26 a majority of the members.

27 (3) The governor shall appoint the chair and vice-chair of the council
28 from its membership. All other officers, if any, shall be elected by the council
29 from its membership.

30 F. The members of the council shall serve without compensation.

1 Council members who are employees or elected public officials of the state of
2 Louisiana or a political subdivision thereof may seek reimbursement of travel
3 expenses from their agency or department, in accordance with PPM 49.

4 G. The council shall make, or cause to be made, all such studies, reviews,
5 or analysis which it finds necessary to effect its purpose.

6 H. The council may receive and expend funds appropriated or otherwise
7 made available by the legislature or from any other source, including donations
8 or gifts of money or services from public or private organizations or from any
9 other sources, to be utilized for the purposes of the council.

10 I. By February 1, 2010, the council shall present a status report on the
11 development of the models and start-up budget for a Louisiana Research
12 Alliance to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and
13 International Affairs and the House Committee on Commerce, meeting jointly.
14 Prior to March 1, 2010, the council shall submit its recommended Louisiana
15 Research Alliance organizational model, operational model, and start-up budget
16 for review by the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____